

Appln. Serial No. 10/092,335
Reply to Office Action Dated June 29, 2004

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 remain in the application. Claims 1-27 have been allowed. Claims 28 - 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's own Hulse (WO 00/42456).

Hulse discloses an illuminating waveguide in which discreet mounting features 60 extend outwardly. Textual reference (p. 8, line 28 - p. 9, line 4) may vaguely suggest integral formation of the mounting feature 60 with the waveguide body. Hulse fails to disclose, however, such mounting features which have a consistent cross-sectional shape along substantially the entire elongated length of the illuminating waveguide body.

In contrast, claims 28 and 30 have been amended herein to distinguish over the Hulse reference by reciting the consistent cross-sectional shape which each of the first and second portions (26,28) and the mounting features (24) share along substantially the entire elongated length of the illuminating body. This feature is inherently shown in the drawing figures and results in an illuminating waveguide structure which is easy to manufacture and sturdy in construction. The continuous elongated mounting features (24) of the subject invention are less prone to stress cracking and failure than that suggested by the prior Hulse reference. Furthermore, the continuous cross-sectional shape along the length of the body facilitates more economical manufacturing processes, such as, for example, extrusion, than that shown by the prior art Hulse reference.

Independent claims 28 and 30, as amended, therefore patentably define over the prior art Hulse reference. Claims 29 and 31 depend, respectively, from claims 28 and 30, and should be allowed therewith.

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In view of the foregoing, the applicant respectfully submits that claims 28-31, as amended, define subject matter that is patentable over the prior Hulse reference, and other prior art of record. Reconsideration is therefore respectfully requested. The examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if so doing would advance prosecution of this case.

An attorney change of record is also included with this transmittal.

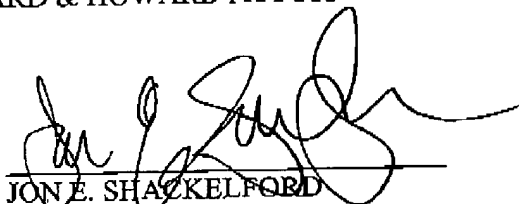
The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any required fees (or crediting an overpayment) associated with this communication to deposit account number 06-0420.

Respectfully Submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS P.C.

Dated:

9/17/2004



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Certificate of Transmission Under 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being submitted via facsimile (703) 872-9306 to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on 9/17/2004.



Rainie L. Mills

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